VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

Approved For Release 2004/06/44 OCIAERDP80R047/20R000800100019

DATE: 17 July 1973

TO.

Mr. Shackley

FROM:

GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT:

SAVA 73-135

REMARKS:

Per our 17 July telephone conversation, attached is a copy of Otis Chandler's 10 July letter to Bill Colby about Jacques Leslie. Presumably the original will filter to you from the 7th floor in due course.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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Los Angeles Times SAVA 2158-73

OTIS CHANDLER

Mr. William E. Colby, Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

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I would like to bring to your attention the fact that one of our staff correspondents in Vietnam, Jacques Leslie, has been informed unofficially by the Saigon authorities of a decision to refuse him extension of his visa. Vietnamese officials have informed Mr. Leslie and The Times' bureau chief in Saigon, George McArthur, that the reasons behind the decision are stories written by Mr. Leslie deemed to be "damaging to the interests of the country."

It is the judgment of our editors that while Mr. Leslie has delved into matters about which the Saigon government is no doubt sensitive, he has taken pains to be objective and balanced in all his articles. Mr. Leslie has reported from an area under control of the NLF, he has written about treatment of sick and injured civilian prisoners, and he has disclosed information about a scandal involving the disposal of brass shell casings, in addition to writing on numerous subjects probably less sensitive. In no case has Mr. Leslie conducted himself, in our opinion, in such a way as to justify what amounts to a virtual expulsion order.

At the moment, our paramount concern is to have Mr. Leslie's status as a correspondent in Vietnam restored. It appears that the surest way to attain this objective is to persuade the Vietnamese that it is in their own best interest to reverse the decision they have taken and to extend Mr. Leslie's visa.

It is my hope that we can enlist your own considerable knowledge of the Vietnamese toward easing his professional plight. Any assistance you may give in this matter would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

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